

embodiments are presented for purposes of illustration and description. They are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the described embodiments to the precise forms disclosed. It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that many modifications and variations are possible in view of the above teachings.

What is claimed is:

1. A dome switch assembly, comprising:
 - a base plate that carries a first contact;
 - a flexible surface connected to the base plate, the flexible surface formed of a metal material in the shape of a dome;
 - a second contact coupled to the flexible surface; and
 - a sound-dampening pad coupled to the flexible surface and formed of a material having noise-dampening properties, wherein when at least a threshold amount of pressure is applied to the flexible surface, the flexible surface changes from the dome shape to a collapsed shape allowing the first and second contact to touch, wherein the sound dampening pad absorbs at least some acoustic energy emitted by the touching of the first and second contacts.
2. The dome switch assembly of claim 1, wherein the sound-dampening pad absorbs at least some acoustic energy emitted by the flexible surface when it changes from the dome shape to the collapsed shape.
3. The dome switch assembly of claim 2, wherein the sound-dampening pad is configured to absorb some of an impact force of the first contact coming into contact with the second contact.
4. The dome switch assembly of claim 1, wherein the sound-dampening pad is coupled to an outer portion of the flexible surface.
5. The dome switch assembly of claim 1, wherein the sound-dampening pad is made from a polymer material.
6. The dome switch assembly of claim 5, wherein the sound-dampening pad material has a shore hardness ranging from about 40 A-80 A.
7. The dome switch assembly of claim 6, wherein the sound-dampening pad is made of silicone.
8. The dome switch assembly of claim 1, wherein the sound-dampening pad has a generally rectangular cross section.
9. A computing device comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a housing configured to carry the processor; and
 - a dome switch in communication with the processor, the dome switch comprising:
 - a metal dome coupled to a switch base and configured to buckle under a force of pressure,
 - a first contact coupled to the metal dome and configured to strike a second contact arranged opposite the first contact when the metal dome buckles, and

a noise-dampening pad coupled to the metal dome and configured to reduce a sound frequency and pitch of a sound wave generated when the first contact strikes the second contact.

10. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the noise-dampening pad absorbs at least some acoustic energy emitted by the metal when it buckles.

11. The computing device of claim 10, wherein the noise-dampening pad is configured to absorb at least part of an impact force generated when the first contact strikes the second contact.

12. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the processor is in communication with a keyboard of the computing device and the dome switch is connected to a key of the keyboard.

13. The computing device of claim 12, wherein the dome switch is configured to cause the processor to perform a function when the circuit is completed.

14. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the noise-dampening pad is made of a polymer.

15. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the flexible surface is made of metal.

16. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the dome switch is connected to a track pad of the computing device.

17. The computing device of claim 9, wherein the computing device is portable and the dome switch is connected to an input button.

18. A method for assembling a dome switch comprising:

arranging a first contact carried by a collapsible metal dome opposite a second contact, the collapsible metal dome being configured to collapse under an applied force allowing the first and second contacts to touch; electrically coupling the first contact and second contact to a process such that when the contacts touch a circuit is completed and a signal is sent to the processor; and coupling a sound-dampening pad to the collapsible metal dome, the sound-dampening pad being formed of a material having sound dampening characteristics and configured to absorb acoustical energy released when the first contact touches the second contact due to the collapsing of the collapsible metal dome under an applied force.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the sound-dampening pad is configured to absorb acoustic energy released by the collapsible metal dome when the collapsible metal dome collapses under the applied force.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the sound-dampening pad is configured to absorb some of an impact force generated when the set of contacts touch.

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